

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 1999-403-C - ORDER NO. 2000-0070
JANUARY 18, 2000

IN RE: Application of Golden Harbor of South)	ORDER
Carolina, Inc. for a Certificate of Public)	GRANTING
Convenience and Necessity to Provide Local)	CERTIFICATE
Exchange Telecommunications Services)	
within the State of South Carolina.)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission") by way of the Application of Golden Harbor of South Carolina, Inc. ("Golden Harbor" or the "Company") requesting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing it to provide facilities-based and resold local exchange telecommunications services within the State of South Carolina. The Application was filed pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-280 (Supp. 1998) and the Regulations of the Commission.

By letter, the Commission's Executive Director instructed the Company to publish, one time, a prepared Notice of Filing in newspapers of general circulation in the areas affected by the Application. The purpose of the Notice of Filing was to inform interested parties of the manner and time in which to file the appropriate pleadings for participation in the proceedings. Golden Harbor complied with this instruction and provided the Commission with proof of publication of the Notice of Filing.

A Petition to Intervene was received from the South Carolina Telephone Coalition (“SCTC”). Counsel for SCTC filed with the Commission a Stipulation in which Golden Harbor stipulated that it would seek authority only in non-rural local exchange (“LEC”) service areas of South Carolina and that it would not provide any local service to any customer located in a rural incumbent’s service area, unless and until the Company provided written notice of its intent prior to the date of the intended service. Golden Harbor also stipulated that it was not asking the Commission to make a finding at this time regarding whether competition is in the public interest for rural areas. Golden Harbor agreed to abide by all State and Federal laws and to participate to the extent that it may be required to do so by the Commission in support of universally available telephone service at affordable rates. The SCTC withdrew its opposition to the granting of a statewide Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity provided the conditions contained in the Stipulation are met. The Stipulation is approved and attached as Order Exhibit 1.

A hearing was commenced on January 6, 2000, at 11:30 a.m., in the Commission’s Hearing Room. The Honorable Philip T. Bradley, Chairman, presided. Golden Harbor was represented by Faye A. Flowers, Esquire. F. David Butler, General Counsel, represented the Commission Staff.

Gary L. Mann, Vice-President of Golden Harbor, appeared and testified in support of the Application. According to Mann, Golden Harbor will provide resold and, if warranted, facilities-based local telecommunications services to non-rural residential

customers. Golden Harbor is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Thrifty Call, Inc., and will depend on Thrifty Call for financial assistance.

The managerial Staff, Mann notes, has considerable experience in marketing, network operations, financial analysis/accounting, customer service, training, sales, regulatory, and other relevant areas. Mann notes that Golden Harbor's officers and senior managers have a combined managerial experience of well over 200 years.

Mann states that Golden Harbor will provide all forms of facilities-based and resold local exchange telecommunications services in South Carolina, including: (1) basic exchange services for residence and business, (2) custom calling and CLASS features (call waiting, caller ID, call forwarding, etc.); (3) adjunct features (vice messaging, etc.); and ancillary services (911, directory listing, directory assistance, etc.). Golden Harbor initially will resell the telecommunications services and network facilities of incumbent facilities-based carriers operating in South Carolina to provide the proposed competitive local exchange service, however, if market conditions warrant, Golden Harbor may install telecommunications facilities in South Carolina in the future. Golden Harbor therefore seeks authority to provide both resold and facilities-based local exchange services.

The witness notes that various Golden Harbor subsidiaries are authorized to provide telecommunications services in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, North Carolina, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. Golden Harbor's parent Company, Thrifty Call, Inc., is certificated to provide service in other states as well.